

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 2, cancel claims 8, 9, 19-30 and 33-74, and add new claims 78-82. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an Sitosterolemia
2 Susceptibility Gene (SSG) ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter polypeptide,
3 said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 75% identical to the full-
4 length of an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said nucleic acid
5 hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions comprising 50% formamide, 5x SSC, 1%
6 SDS at 65°C and wash conditions of 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C to a nucleic acid comprising a
7 nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said amino acid sequence
8 comprises an ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter.

1 2 (currently amended): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide
2 specifically binds to polyclonal antibodies generated against a polypeptide that comprises an
3 amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID
4 NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

1 3 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide
2 comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 4 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide forms a dimer
2 with a second ABC polypeptide, and wherein said dimer exhibits sterol transport activity.

1 5 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said dimer is a heterodimer.

1 6 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.

1 7 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein said second ABC
2 polypeptide is ATP-Binding Cassette 8 (ABC8).

1 8-9 (canceled).

1 10 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence at least 80% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set
3 forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

1 11 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

12 (canceled)

1 13 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is from a
2 mouse or a human.

1 14 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed
2 in the intestine or in the liver in the presence of an LXR agonist.

1 15 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed
2 in a tissue selected from the group consisting of liver, jejunum, ileum, and duodenum.

16 (canceled)

1 17 (original): An expression cassette comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1
2 operably linked to a promoter.

1 18 (original): An isolated cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 17.

19-30 (canceled).

1 31. (original) A method of making an SSG polypeptide, the method comprising:

2 (i) introducing a nucleic acid of claim 1 into a host cell or cellular extract; and
3 (ii) incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said
4 SSG polypeptide is expressed in the host cell or cellular extract.

32. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising recovering the SSG polypeptide from the host cell or cellular extract.

33-75 (canceled)

1 76 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid
2 sequence is at least about 90% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 77 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid
2 sequence is at least about 95% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 78 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at
2 least about 80% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 79 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at
2 least about 85% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 80 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 85% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 81 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 82 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 83 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid
3 sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 84 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence
3 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.